America THINKS 2019 Survey Compilation

AMERICANS’ VIEWS ON U.S. TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Approximately half of Americans consider themselves knowledgeable or familiar with autonomous vehicles. 52% knowledgeable

Americans clearly recognize the importance of a consistent and reliable source of funding dedicated to infrastructure investment. 66% Believe having a reliable source of funding is important.
Examining and understanding Americans’ views about mobility enables development of innovative transportation infrastructure solutions to improve and enhance economic vitality and social well-being.

Today as never before, Americans expect the freedom of mobility, but on their own terms. They want to select the mode of travel that will best meet their needs for convenience, comfort and cost. They also realize that transportation infrastructure is under extraordinary stress while simultaneously standing on the cusp of a mobility revolution driven by emerging technologies.

There is strong consensus among Americans who support the need for a national transportation policy that will improve the reliability, accessibility and safety of our transportation network. And, they recognize the relationship of such a policy to the importance of a reliable and consistent source of funding to pay for needed infrastructure investments.

Americans also expect new technologies to significantly impact surface transportation, particularly automobiles. With advances in autonomous vehicle technology, they believe these vehicles will provide new mobility options for those who are not able to drive themselves. While traveling in an autonomous vehicle, people expect new options to occupy time that would otherwise be spend driving their cars.

HNTB Corporation’s award-winning America THINKS survey series will continue to ask, “What do you think?” as part of the on-going conversation within the industry, with elected and appointed officials and the American people. During 2019, HNTB conducted two national public opinion surveys that examined issues associated with the need and importance of a national transportation policy and alternatives to fund transportation infrastructure, and how emerging technologies will impact mobility now and into the future.

For more information about the findings of these surveys, contact Christian Munson, cmunson@hntb.com.

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Believe high quality national transportation systems are important to economic prosperity and quality of life.

73%

The need for an adequately funded national policy to improve the reliability, accessibility, mobility and safety of our country’s transportation network has broad support across the nation, according to HNTB’s latest America THINKS national public opinion survey. The survey found Americans recognize the relationship between a robust, high quality transportation system and our economic vitality. Americans also understand and support the crucial need for a reliable, consistent source of funding dedicated to investment in our transportation infrastructure.

AMERICANS OVERWHELMINGLY BELIEVE A NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.

Believe national transportation infrastructure policy is important.

78%

AMERICANS UNDERSTAND THAT A ROBUST, HIGH QUALITY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM DIRECTLY IMPACTS THE NATION’S GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS, SECURITY, ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE.

Believe high quality national transportation systems are important to economic prosperity and quality of life.

73%

HNTB’S America THINKS survey, The Imperative for a National Transportation Policy, polled a random sample of 1,014 Americans, ages 18 and older, between March 15 and March 18, 2019. Quotas were set to ensure reliable representation of the entire U.S. population ages 18 and over. The margin of error is +/- 3.1 percent. For more information, visit www.hntb.com or contact David Fridling (917) 438-0900; dfridling@hntb.com.

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Approximately half of Americans now believe they are familiar with autonomous (self-driving) vehicles. As that awareness grows, acceptance of these emerging technologies also increases. As HNTB’s latest America THINKS national public opinion survey demonstrates, among the 52 percent of Americans surveyed who believe they are knowledgeable or familiar with autonomous vehicles, almost six in ten (58 percent) believe they will be commonplace within the next 10 years.

Among these Americans, 58 percent believe these vehicles will be commonplace within 10 years; 57 percent are willing to ride in them; and 51 percent believe they are safer than people-driven vehicles.

Increased mobility for non-drivers is recognized as the single most important benefit of autonomous vehicles. Two-thirds of Americans expect to spend their time looking out the windows of their vehicle.

Americans remain concerned about the use of autonomous vehicles.
Additional resources

American Public Transportation Association
www.apta.com

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
www.transportation.org

Intelligent Transportation Society of America
www.itsa.org

The American Road & Transportation Builders Association
www.artba.org

International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association
www.ibtta.org

Federal Highway Administration
www.fhwa.dot.gov

Voices for Public Transit
www.voicesforpublictransit.org

For more information on the America THINKS survey series, visit www.hntb.com/AmericaTHINKS or contact Christian Munson, (804) 823-6034, cmunson@HNTB.com.